

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

THE VOLUNTEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The Volunteer Relief Association held its seventh regular meeting at the office of Wm. B. Price, on Pitt street, near Prince, yesterday afternoon, at three o'clock.

Wm. B. Price, President, presided, and H. Peel appeared as Secretary. The attendance was as usual.

The purchasing and distributing committees made their usual reports. The latter committee reported the following distribution of provisions for the past week:

"The distribution has consisted of three hundred and thirty-three rations, given to one hundred and forty families, as follows: 1,096 pounds of meat; 20 bushels of corn meal; 792 lbs. of flour; 1,746 fish."

The location of the supply store at the joiner's shop of W. H. McKnight, was concurred in.

A communication was read from the Ladies' Relief Association, enclosing a statement of the operations of that society, similar to that published in the Local News last week.

Whereupon the following resolution was adopted by acclamation:

Resolved, That the report of the Ladies' Relief Society be spread upon the minutes, and that the Secretary be instructed to furnish them with a statement of the operations of the society up to the present time, and express to them our thanks for the cordial co-operation they have given in this charity.

The roll of the beneficiaries of the charity was then examined, and named several names.

The Association then adjourned

THE FRUITS OF CHARITY.—A most interesting correspondence has lately taken place between the Ladies' Relief Society, devoted to supplying clothing to the destitute, and the Volunteer Relief Association, which furnishes food and fuel to the same objects. The ladies forwarded a statement of their operations to the gentlemen, and this morning Henry Peel, the Secretary of the gentlemen's association, forwarded a letter, couched in fitting terms, and setting forth the operations of that Association, to the ladies society.

This communication shows that the Volunteer Association has distributed, during the month of November:

5,008 pounds of meat;
128½ bushels of corn meal;
18 barrels of flour;
15 barrels of fish;
54 loads of wood;
1 ton of coal.

This is a bright page in the history of the times. We are sorry to learn that the supply of fuel in the hands of the society has been exhausted, and cannot, for the present, be renewed, so that, in future, its donations will be in food only.

TOBACCO.—The consumption of the article of tobacco in this vicinity at the present time, would, if stated in figures, appear almost incredible. For many years, segars, &c., have formed a portion of the stock of other dealers, beside those who devoted themselves solely to the sale of tobacco. Now, however, tobacco and pipes are kept in one-half of the establishments in town, and some dozen new establishments that have been opened, are devoted to the sale of nothing else.

PASSES.—The applicants for passes at the headquarters of the Military Governor of this city are now each morning ranged in lines, to avoid interfering with persons passing on that side of St. Asaph street. This gives the line a singular appearance, and more than once has this line been mistaken for a squad of recruits, getting ready to drill.

THE WATCH HOUSE.—This "institution" is now again used as a watch-house, being occupied at night by the military police, and receiving all persons arrested during the night.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—There have been quite a number of Tugs, &c., plying about the river, to-day. The Pensacola has been trying her engines; the Mount Washington passed down; the James Guy came down with troops, and landed them here. Several U. S. barges from above with flour, and a few small vessels from below have arrived.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—As there is now but a single civil magistrate in this county with a jurisdiction recognised by the military, the number of cases brought up at the Mayor's Court each morning are not only numerous, but of characters exceedingly various.

This morning several police cases came up before the Court for adjudication. They were all caused by drunkenness, and, in the consideration of these cases, the Court took occasion to animadvert with equal justice and severity upon the retail liquor trade, as now carried on in Alexandria. The greed of gain seemed to have overridden every other consideration, and men were found who would not only cheat, but steal, some having no regard whatever for the peace of the community, selling liquor to soldiers by stealth whenever a chance offered, and charging two and three dollars for a bottle of horrible stuff which did not cost them twenty-eight cents a gallon. He believed that there were more people going to the devil from Alexandria now, than from any other town in the world, owing to these miserable establishments.

There were also a number of applications for licenses, which were granted an endorsement being made on each one to the effect that it did not authorise the sale of spirituous liquors.

Messrs. O. C. Whittlesey and G. C. Hewes, chosen Collectors of Taxes at the recent election, gave bond, qualified and entered upon the discharge of the duties of their respective offices.

A CHANGE OF JURISDICTION.—The civil law now has been restored to a great portion of its ordinary integrity in this country. The military government now confines its operations to an efficient police—a system of passes, for leaving the city, and some other matters of a similar character.

Civil persons are not, however, longer amenable to military tribunals for ordinary offences; the Provost Court is abolished, and the jurisdiction of the Provost Marshal limited to that position under the laws governing the military and naval forces of the United States.

The ordinary civil tribunals will take charge of cases relating to citizens, and to soldiers also, when their offence is merely a violation of municipal or State law. When, however, the offence is a violation of military discipline, as drunkenness, &c., the Provost Marshal certifies the case to the colonel of each regiment, who sees to the punishment of his own men.

The military police assist the civil police, and, in a word, the usual jurisdiction of civil officers and tribunals is now re-established.

THE WEATHER.—The weather to-day has been quite pleasant—being very much like Indian Summer.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says that "the absorbing question now is, not about the prospect of an advance at this point, but what policy concerning contrabands will become a fixed fact." The ultra republicans pronounce the President's views concerning slaves as not coming up to the spirit of the times. And he adds that "it is confidently asserted, by persons who have access to the President, that he will veto any bill which is based upon the ideas latterly enunciated by the hot-heads of the republican party. It is stated, also, in a well posted quarter, that a majority of the Senate and House accord with the President. So also does a majority of the Cabinet."

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Times, speaking on the same subject, says that the more moderate and conservative friends of the President are highly pleased with his course, and, knowing "the tremendous pressure that has been brought to bear upon him to swerve him from his purpose, they declare that he is now fully tried and found the man of firmness necessary to his position."

The New York World says:—"Col. Kerrigan is not to be shot as a traitor. He will merely be drummed out of the service, for drunkenness and 'conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.' He will then doubtless take his seat in Congress."

The message of the Governor of Maryland to the Legislature of that State, urges measures for the payment of the State's portion of the national tax for the expenses of the war. He says the rebellion must be put down, no matter at what cost, and Maryland must bear her share, and he hopes it will be done with no niggard hand. He urges a loan for the purpose, and also says it is undoubtedly a strict duty, as it is also due to the pride and honor of the State, that immediate provision be made for raising and equipping Maryland's quota of volunteers for the war. He recommends legislation for summary punishment of persons in Maryland who shall be convicted of aiding or abetting, in any manner, those who are in arms against the Government.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer gives another version of the reported difficulty in reference to Secretary Cameron's report. He says Secretary Seward and Secretary Cameron differed so much in their views, that a break up seemed inevitable, but that the President settled the matter "by going to General Cameron, and insisted upon his confining his report to a statement of the past, and not dictate to Congress what they should do. Cameron insisted that his policy was correct, and must be carried out at once. The President assured him that it did not follow, if he changed his report or left out any of it, that he must necessarily change his policy, but that he could carry it out; only let Congress take hold of the matter first. With this understanding, General Cameron made the alteration."

The resolutions of Mr. Eliot, of Massachusetts, in the House of Representatives, are not received with unanimous approbation in Boston. The Boston Post says: "The resolutions introduced by Eliot, of Massachusetts, and Stevens, of Pennsylvania, into Congress are simply propositions to render the restoration of the Union impossible, the war interminable—a cry for blood, taxation, poverty; the food craved by reckless fanaticism. Those who like the programme may prepare to enact their parts. The probability is the audience will be too large for the performers—the hisses louder than the applause."

GENERAL NEWS.

Bills have been introduced into the House of Representatives relative to the "confiscation of slaves held by rebels," and to confiscate all property belonging to persons in rebellious States." Also resolutions reaffirming the Crittenden resolutions unanimously adopted at the last session denying that this is a war for subjugation or interfering with the institutions of the States, &c. The bill introduced by Mr. Trumbull, in the Senate, provides for the "forfeiture of all property of rebels who are beyond the reach of judicial process. The property in insurrectionary districts is to be seized and appropriated by military power. That in the districts where it can be reached by legal process is to be confiscated through the courts. The proceeds, after the payment of the expenses and just claims of loyal citizens, are to be applied to reimbursing loyal citizens, despoiled of their property by rebels, and the rest to paying the expenses of suppressing insurrection. Rebel owners of slaves are to forfeit their right to them, and the negroes are to become free."

A letter from Darnestown to the Washington Star, dated December 4, says:—"This morning the Third Brigade of Gen. Banks' Division struck their tents and took up the line of march for Frederick. The pickets of this brigade, lining the canal and river from Seneca Lock to within four miles of Chain Bridge, are to be replaced by those from Gen. Stone's Command. The third Brigade constituted the rear of General Banks' movement to Frederick. Gen. Hamilton's (First) Brigade having left on yesterday, and Gen. Abernethy's (Third) Brigade on the day previous. The general impression appears to be that Frederick is not to be the winter quarters of the division, but merely a suitable position for locating a corps of reserves."

Pork is selling at low rates in the Western country.

In the Senate, yesterday, an effort was made by Mr. Chandler to obtain the appointment of a committee to inquire into the disasters of Bull Run and Edward's Ferry, but on motion of Mr. Fessenden, the subject was postponed. It is said that "the Senate presented a grave and rather gloomy aspect, while the military disasters of Bull Run, Springfield, Wilson's Creek, and Ball's Bluff were discussed upon resolutions of inquiry into their causes. Senator Lane, of Kansas, remarked that Congress would not have to go far to learn the causes of the disasters in Missouri. It is probable that a joint committee of the two houses will be charged with the proposed inquiry."

Senator Trumbull, while advocating his confiscation bill, took occasion utterly to repudiate the idea that the military should ever be superior to the civil power. He did not recognize any military necessity as being above the constitution and the laws. Whatever was to be done, therefore, in the war, should be done under act of Congress.

Mr. Fessenden, the leader of the Republicans, threw out some intimations to the effect that no hot and wild work, in disregard of the constitution and laws, would be countenanced by him.

In the Maryland House of Delegates yesterday, a discussion sprang up on Secretary Cameron's proposition for the division and partition of the State of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. The scheme evidently found no supporters, and the House unanimously agreed to lay the subject on the table.

The water is drawn out of the Georgetown level on the C. and O. Canal, to give the workmen an opportunity to put up the tresselling to support that portion of the new Government bridge which crosses the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at the north end of the Alexandria aqueduct.

The Nashville-Louisville Courier of the 26th, says that John C. Breckinridge is quite ill from an attack of jaundice.

Mrs. Marks, arrested as an accessory to the murder of Mr. Fellner, in New Jersey, has made a confession, saying that Radeki stabbed Fellner and murdered him; that it was he who opened and robbed Fellner's trunk of its valuable contents.

Gen. McClellan is in the 36th year of his age.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board of Aldermen, elected on the 20th ult., were called to the Council chamber at 10 o'clock, on the 22d ult., and Messrs. S. Shinn, Jas. Vansant, Andrew Wylie, Robert Bell, Sen., Allen C. Harmon and Jefferson Tacey being present, and duly qualified by the Mayor, Lewis McKensie.

On motion, Stephen Shinn was elected the President of the Board.

Andrew Wylie was requested to notify the Common Council that the Board were prepared to proceed to business.

James A. Stoutenburg notified this Board that the Common Council had organized.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That a committee should be appointed by this Board, to act with a committee from the Common Council, in an investigation of the present condition of the Alms House.

Committee—Robert Bell.

S. Sidebottom informed this Board that the Common Council had appointed a committee to ascertain the condition of the Alms House.

On motion, the Board adjourned to meet on Tuesday evening, the 26th inst., at 7 o'clock.

JEFFERSON TACEY,
Secretary pro tem.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board of Aldermen, met on November 26th, 1861, at 7 o'clock P. M. The President, Stephen Shinn, esq., in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Committee on Alms House reported that the Keeper of the Alms House was at his post, and that he intended to remain there until his successor was appointed.

Andrew Jamieson being present, was duly qualified a member of the Board.

The President announced the Standing Committees as follows:

On Finance—A. Jamieson and A. Wylie.

On Public Property—J. Tacey and James Vansant.

On Light—Robert Bell and A. C. Harmon.

On Claims—A. Wylie and Jas. Vansant.

On Streets—A. C. Harmon and Robert Bell.

On Schools—A. Jamieson and J. Tacey.

On Poor—Jas. Vansant and Robert Bell.

On General Laws—A. Wylie and A. Jamieson.

An order from the Board concerning the application of Wm. Gregory, for an alteration of Tax Bill, referring the same to a joint special committee, was amended by referring it to the Committee on Claims.

On motion, the "Rules of Order" of the former Board, and the "Joint Rules" were adopted as the rules of this Board.

On motion, the Board adjourned.

JEFFERSON TACEY,
Secretary pro tem.